

Multitudes Are Healed

Teacher Preparation

1. Study lesson.
 - Scripture Mark 3:1–12, 31–35; Matt. 4:13–25
Matt. 9:35–38; Luke 6:12–13
2. Visuals
 - Key Verse 3 Matt. 9:38
 - Map 1 Jesus' Ministry
3. Objectives: To learn about—
 - Peter/Andrew fishers of men,
 - Healing attracts multitude.
 - He healed all.
 - Why Jesus prayed.

Lesson 3

Galilean ministry

Jesus left Judea with His disciples and went to **Galilee**. And there, He had His greatest acceptance. Because the Jews in Galilee were not as wealthy or educated as those in **Judea**, some in Judea looked down on Jews from Galilee. Before Nathaniel met Jesus, he had asked, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” John 1:46. That was because Jesus came from **Nazareth**, a poor Galilean town.

Man with withered hand

Jesus entered a synagogue and healed a man.

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Mark 3:1 And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a **withered hand**. ² And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might **accuse** him.

³ And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. ⁴ And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

⁵ And when he had looked round about on them with **anger**, being **grieved** for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his **hand** was **restored** whole as the other.

⁶ And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might **destroy** him.

Locate
Capernaum →



Jesus withdraws / Multitudes follow

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Vs. 7 But Jesus **withdrew** himself with his disciples to the sea: and a great **multitude** from Galilee followed him, and from Judaea, ⁸ And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and from beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a **great multitude**, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him. ⁹ And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the **multitude**, lest they should throng him.

¹⁰ For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to **touch** him, as many as had **plagues**. ¹¹ And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the **Son of God**.

¹² And he straitly charged them that they should **not make him known**.

Jesus healed many. And when unclean spirits called Him the Son of God, Jesus charged them **not** to make Him known.

Who are brethren / mother?

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

3:31 There came then his brethren and his **mother**, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. ³² And the **multitude** sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy **brethren** without seek for thee. ³³ And he answered them, saying, **Who** is my mother, or my brethren?

³⁴ And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my **mother** and my **brethren**! ³⁵ For **whosoever** shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

When His mother and brethren came to see Jesus, the crowd moved aside, to make room for His family. Then Jesus asked, “Who are My mother and brethren?” And He answered, “Whoever does the will of God is My brother, sister, and **mother**.” This makes it clear that Jesus put His earthly mother and family (Joseph is believed to have died.) on the same level as all believers. This **refutes** the Mariolatry teaching that Mary is the “mother of God” and the “queen of heaven.”

Capernaum / headquarters

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Matt. 4:13 And leaving Nazareth, he came and **dwelt** in **Capernaum**,

which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim.

He left Nazareth, His hometown and dwelt in Capernaum, located on the

north shore of the sea of Galilee. (Some ancient ruins remain there.)

Locate
Capernaum →



Capernaum was called “*his own city*” Matt. 9:1, for it was

headquarters for His Galilean ministry. Jews in

Galilee were spiritually hungry and humble

enough to receive God’s message. And **Gentiles**

who lived in Galilee were also eager to hear about the true God.

Kingdom at hand

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Matt. 4:17 *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent:** for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

The word **repent** means “**turn.**” Jesus said, “Turn, let **Me** be king in your life.” His **kingdom** was open to all, for it’s an eternal kingdom, and all who enter will live with Him in heaven.

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Vs. 23 *And Jesus went about all Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues, and **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and **healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.***

Jesus preached the gospel (good news) of the **kingdom**. Jews expected the Messiah to be an earthly king who would overthrow the **Roman** government. But when Jesus preached the gospel of the **kingdom**, they knew He was **not** talking about a kingdom to overthrow Rome, but a **spiritual** kingdom. (The apostle Paul, under house arrest in Rome, also preached the kingdom of God Acts 28:31.)

Fishers of men

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Vs. 18 *And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called **Peter**, and **Andrew** his brother, **casting a net into the sea:** for*

*they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he saith unto them, **Follow me**, and I will make you **fishers of men**. ²⁰ And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.*

Peter and Andrew were Jesus’ disciples, but **fishing** was their **business** on the sea of Galilee. As disciples, they went to hear Jesus when they could, and perhaps went along with Him to Feasts in Jerusalem.

This time, when Jesus walked by and saw **Peter** and **Andrew** casting a net, He said, “**Follow me**, and I will make you **fishers of men**.”

Jesus meant—leave your fishing business, follow Me, and I’ll make you fishers of men. This was their **call** to follow Jesus **full time**. It required faith and dedication for them to leave their fishing business and go full time with Jesus.

James/John follow

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Vs. 21 *And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, **James** the son of Zebedee, and **John** his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, **mending their nets**; and he called them.*

²² *And they immediately **left the ship** and their **father**, and **followed** him.*

Jesus called James and John to follow Him, and they “**left the ship and their father**” to **follow** Jesus full time. God still calls some to serve Him full time—as pastors, missionaries, or other full-time servants of God. It is a great honor to be **called** of God. Some are called, but for various reasons, feel they cannot leave their job, or family, or hometown, etc. And they never follow God’s call on their life.

No one would have **heard** of Peter, Andrew, James, and John, if they had not responded to Jesus’ call. But they did respond. Now, about 2,000 yrs. later, millions of people read about them in the Bible.

All who “follow Jesus” become fishers of men. The one requirement is—follow Jesus. This means to love the Lord and follow Him in godly

living. There are things others may do, that those who follow Jesus **cannot** do. God always calls His servants to be **separated** from worldly, ungodly lifestyles. Those who say they follow Jesus but do not live for God—appear to others to be no different than people who do **not know** God. When a person **lives** for God, his life will show it, and some will become spiritually **thirsty** and trust Christ as Savior.

Thus, the disciple becomes a **“fisher of men.”**

In Luke 9:59–62, Jesus called 2 men to “follow Him.” One said, “Let me **first go bury my father.**” Jesus told him, “Let the dead bury their dead. Go preach the kingdom of God.”

The other man said, “I’ll follow You, but let me **first** go and **bid** farewell to those in my **house.**” Jesus told him, “If anyone puts his hand to the plough and looks back, he is not fit for the kingdom of God.” When a person starts out looking back, he will never follow Jesus **full time!**

Healing/fame spreads

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Matt. 4:24 *And his **fame** went throughout all **Syria**: and they brought unto him all **sick** people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he **healed them**.*

²⁵ *And there followed him great **multitudes** of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.*

show map →

Jesus’ **fame** reached all **Syria**, a Gentile country north of Israel, where people worshiped idols of stone and wood.



More than OT miracles

The OT records a **few** miracles of healing, but not to the extent, nor variety of diseases and afflictions that Jesus healed. In OT times, God made

His mighty power known in a **series of miracles**. The first series was through **Moses** and **Joshua**, then later a series of miracles through **Elijah** and **Elisha**. But **Jesus** performed **far more miracles** than all these and other OT miracles combined.

Fame stirs jealousy

As word spread about Jesus, more multitudes came to hear Him, which made the Pharisees **jealous**. Jesus was not a part of **their** religious system, and they resented anyone following Him. As their **jealousy** grew, they became Christ’s bitter **enemies**. Satan always uses false religious leaders to oppose God’s work.

Moved with compassion

Matt. 9:35 *Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing every sickness and every disease among the people**.*

³⁶ *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then saith he unto his disciples, The **harvest** truly is plenteous, but the **labourers are few**.*

Key Verse 3

The next verse is—

A Key Verse

Matt. 9:38 *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth **labourers** into his **harvest**.* (repeat)



Jesus, moved with compassion, said the multitudes were like **sheep** with **no shepherd** to care for them. He also saw them as a great **harvest** field with **few laborers**.

He said the solution was prayer—**“Pray ye”** the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His **harvest**. The harvest is His, and He **needs workers** in His fields. He had called Peter, Andrew, James, and John for that purpose.

Why Jesus prayed

Jesus had said—**pray** for laborers, and that's what He did.

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

Luke 6:12 *And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to **pray**, and continued all night in prayer to God.*

Some ask, “Why would Jesus pray to God the Father, if He was God the Son?” The answer is simple. As people, we carry on conversations within ourselves. King David did that—he asked himself a question and then answered his own question in Psa. 42:5. *“**Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.**”*

Therefore, it should **not** be considered **unusual** for Jesus, the Son of God, to talk with God the Father in prayer. His prayer to the Father presents no **conflict** with His deity. The statement in Gen. 1:26, “*Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness*” shows that there has always been communication within the Godhead.

In His earthly body, Jesus communicated with the Father through **prayer**, even as **all** believers **communicate** with God through prayer.

Holy Spirit helps us pray

After Jesus returned to heaven, God the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the body of all believers. And He **assists** believers in knowing **what** to pray for and guides us in our praying. Rom. 8:26 says, “*Likewise the **Spirit** also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should **pray** for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh **intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*”

12 apostles chosen

The next verse tells what Jesus did the following day.

★Teacher reads, as class follows.

6:13 *And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them*

*he chose **twelve**, whom also he named **apostles**.*

After His all night of prayer, Jesus chose **12** disciples to be His special followers, which He named **apostles**. They would be laborers with Him in His harvest field; they would travel with Him, see the miracles, and hear Him teach and preach. They would also be witnesses to what He said and did. And when His ministry ended, they would **continue** His **work**. The book of Acts verifies that the apostles did take the **lead** in spreading the gospel and keeping the early Church pure.

Jesus selected Judas Iscariot as an apostle, knowing he would be a **betrayor**. John 6:64 “*Jesus **knew** from the **beginning** who they were that **believed not**, and who should betray him.*” He called Judas “*a **devil***” John 6:70. This cautions all who are in God’s work—not to end up like Judas. Each Christian needs to examine his personal relationship to God.

Key Verse 3

Review Key Verse

Matt. 9:38 —→

Let’s say it together.



Prayer

As class exits,
Asst. gives out
Compass #3.